ISASC

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

President's Newsletter

Number 44. October, 1989.

GROWING AND GROWING.

It seems that's what ISASC is all about. In the previous Newsletter, we reported that the North American Chapter had reached an all-time high of 242 members. Well, in the intervening three months that record was handily broken, and as of this writing, our ranks have reached the 248 figure. In a year or two, it's likely we'll hit 300, and our crystal ball tells us that by the year 2000 we'll probably be 1,000 strong. That's the year we'll be 25 years old, so if you're the type who plans ahead, you might mark your calendar to attend our 25th commemorative convention during Spring of the year we enter the 21st Century.

A WORD FROM YOUR TREASURER.

Jan Macho, who manages ISASC purse strings, is sending out dues notices on or about November 1, and has asked that we request (beg, implore, beseech) our members to give him the consideration he deserves (and needs) by paying their dues promptly. Every year we give you the same compelling reason, because every year it's true: Service to ISASC is voluntary, and those generous souls who volunteer their time and energy deserve no less than your cooperation. Please pay your dues within 48 hours of your receipt of your dues statement. Jan promises his eternal gratitude, as do I.

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AND A WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT.

Next April, as is our yearly custom, we'll publish our annual Membership Directory, and as part of that project, we'll be giving members the opportunity to update their Directory listing, and particularly the description of their collection. So, to facilitate your payment of dues and the updating of your listing, you'll find a directory update card with your dues notice. If, and only if, your listing needs updating, fill out the update card and return it to Jan with your dues payment. He'll keep the money (treasurers are funny that way), and forward the update cards to me, and I'll do the rest.

GOOD NEWS FROM OVERSEAS.

We're pleased as can be to advise you that through the good efforts of Albert Rangeley, one of our English brethren and a mainstay of our Society, we now can offer you a current 1989 Euro-Chapter Membership Directory. A complimentary copy is yours for the asking, and will be mailed promptly upon request, either by phone or mail. And our apologies go to those members who previously had requested a copy when it wasn't available and whose names we neglected to keep. This time you'll definitely receive it the minute we hear from you.

AND GOOD NEWS ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT.

Last July, due to Tod Carley's retirement as an officer and director, we told you how fortunate ISASC was to find Steve Ginsberg willing to take on Tod's dual functions. In due course, having observed the by-laws formality of first having a nominating committee endorse Steve as a candidate, your officers proceeded to cast their votes for or against, and (surprise!), the vote was unanimously "for." Thus, if you'll check the listing on the first inside page of the enclosed EQM, you'll see Steve properly ensconced in his new position. Welcome to our "volunteer" ranks, Steve. We know you'll do your bit to support the cause.

IN PHILADELPHIA...

Plans for our 1990 convention continue with all deliberate speed. Our co-chairmen, Emil Cohn and Lew Weiss, are diligently developing the program, preparing invitation and registration materials, arranging special events, and, all in all, doing what's necessary to make sure next year's convention measures up to the high marks earned by this year's San Francisco affair and those that preceeded it. And for those of you who haven't marked your calendars yet (for shame), the dates are May 11 to 13. In just a few weeks, Emil and Lew will be entrusting the whole story to the mailman (mailperson?), and from what we've learned of their plans, it should make for some very interesting (and enticing) reading.

IN CAMBRIDGE...

Massachusetts, that is, we seem to have made a good impression on our friends at Harvard U. Those members who attended our Boston convention will have no trouble remembering our fascinating visit to Harvard's Science Center and its Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments. Our host that day was curator Bill Andrewes, and the sequel to that occasion came several weeks ago in the form of a letter from Bill in which he ordered an entire set of back EQM's for the Collections library and, moreover, a subscription for the future. Glad to oblige, Bill. Harvard always has been one of our favorite seats of learning.

IN AUSTRALIA...

Our favorite "down under" correspondent, Eileen Park, writes to tell us she'll be in our neck of the woods next June for her son's wedding to a Chicago girl. Needless to say, she's looking forward to meeting some Chicago-area collectors and, with a little luck, finding a few scales to acquire. Eileen reports that she and husband Ray have added a two-room extension to their home, mainly to display their collection now numbering 1,500 scales (and hundreds of weights), many of which have come from Java, India, Thailand and other exotic places. Now that's a collection that deserves to be published in book form.

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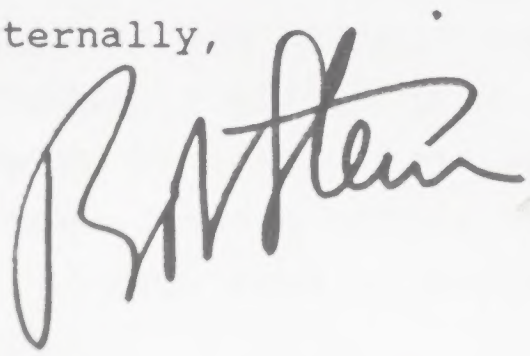
IN CONNECTICUT...

Word come from a prominent illustrator, Richard Newton by name, who's been searching in vain for a sculpted replica (any size, any style) of the famed Scales of Justice. You know the one -- the blindfolded lady with outstretched arm holding a beam scale with hanging pans. It seems Mr. Newton is planning to feature the lady on the cover of a book, and needs a dimensional representation of the scale in order to photograph it. The lady is invariably associated with the legal profession, and we've steered Mr. Newton in that direction, but if any of you happen to have the scale and would like to lend it out for the purpose described, or if you know where one can be found, please write or call Richard Newton, 54 Fairview Drive, Madison, CT 06443; telephone 203/245-8488.

IN CALIFORNIA...

The latest news has it that member Ruth Willard, a historian of considerable note, recently received her second Bachelor in Arts degree, this one centered around a thesis titled Transmission of Culture. We clearly don't intend to steal Ruth's thunder, but look for some very interesting metrological revelations on that subject at the Philadelphia convention. For the moment we'll say no more.

AND IN CHICAGO...

The end of the year is fast approaching, and Margie joins me in wishing all our good friends the best of everything in 1990 and the years that lie ahead. Our hope for the new year is that all of you who are such a vital part of ISASC continue to benefit from the camaraderie that characterizes our Society and even more importantly, continue to enjoy life's blessings.

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